



Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

YOUR RED RIVER MÉTIS GOVERNMENT'S BI-WEEKLY NEWS.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Canada recently marked the third annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Perhaps it's fitting that we announced our plan to purchase 200 Main Street just days ahead of this important day of remembrance and hope.

Reconciliation is not just a word, and it's not just a matter of saying sorry for past wrongs. It is about new beginnings, and fostering strength and growth for Indigenous Nations harmed by colonial policies and attitudes, like the Red River Métis were harmed. Economic revitalization is one of the most significant tools we have to build that growth and strength.

The beauty of an economic revitalization is that it not only benefits the people who were harmed in the past, or their descendants – it benefits everyone. You can plainly see the benefits of economic reconciliation and revitalization through our investments into the heart of our Homeland, in what is now called Winnipeg.

The purchase of this new building at 200 Main Street creates opportunities for our Citizens, staff, and affiliates. It also allows businesses to grow and thrive around us. Restaurants, stores, and other service-providing businesses in the area will always benefit from having more people working and spending time downtown.

Our Citizens know that Winnipeg is laced with our history – from the street names like McDermot and Bannatyne, to places like Grant's Old Mill and the Seven Oaks monument. Our history is everywhere in this city and this province, and it only takes knowledge and education for others to see and understand. Our heritage centre, which will be housed at the corner of Portage and Main, is a powerful symbol of reclamation. We are retaking our place as an economic engine of the West through our ownership of this iconic building of commerce. Once complete in 2026, it will deliver a one-of-a-kind experience in North America and the world.

Though street names and exact building locations change over time, 200 Main Street is also symbolic for our people. It is located approximately where the Dominion Lands Office was located in the 1800s – the very place where our Ancestors were expected to make applications for the land we negotiated for our families and our children. Of course, we all know how the scrip was mismanaged and left vulnerable to fraud and corruption. Our future was stolen, and the land that was to be ours – which includes the city of Winnipeg – was given to others. As I said during the announcement about 200 Main Street, we are reclaiming the land that was stolen from our Ancestors – acre by acre and building by building.

These two buildings are only a portion of the investments made on your behalf. Along with investing approximately \$11 million into our Home Office at 150 Henry Avenue to make the building more environmentally friendly, Red River Métis Citizens now own properties at 280 Fort Street, 670 Main Street, and 90 Sutherland Avenue. We are also beginning work on Michif Manor on Notre Dame, which will house Red River Métis families who need to come to Winnipeg to receive health care, and Infinity House of Hope, which will offer transitional housing for our Youth in care.

These are just some of the properties your Red River Métis Government holds on your behalf. It does not include the homes our Citizens have purchased with our help. Together, our efforts are restoring our presence as landowners here in the heart of our Homeland.

Even though our Citizens live in many places in Canada and beyond, it's clear that Winnipeg holds a

special place in all our hearts, here in the province we brought into Canada's confederation. When I've spoken with Red River Métis Citizens who were born and raised outside of our Homeland, they often talk about wanting to come to Winnipeg, to see the place our Ancestors founded.

As your President, I want to ensure that when they come here, they feel the heartbeat of our birthplace, and see evidence of the strength of their Red River Métis Government. We feel a strong sense of responsibility to ensure that this place thrives as we thrive. We invest in Winnipeg because we believe in Winnipeg. It's the place where our Nation was born.

I hope you can feel the excitement building, as we continue to blaze a trail for the continued revival in our culture, as well as expanding our economic strength. In my next message, I'll delve into how we're investing in education, which is another important tool to support the long-term financial well-being of our families and our Nation.

Until we gather at our upcoming Annual General Assembly, I send my well wishes to Citizens who are honouring our traditions by harvesting from our Homeland to feed family and community. Stay safe and remember – your Red River Métis Government has your back.

I also offer my prayers to all our families, Citizens, friends, and neighbours, and my deepest condolences to those who have been caused to grieve.

Meeqwetch,

President David Chartrand, LL.D. hon. D.M. ∞

MY LITTLE MÉTIS BOX A FUN WAY TO EDUCATE RED RIVER MÉTIS CHILDREN



The Vandenberghes first started receiving My Little Métis Box as a way for their daughter, Gianna, to explore her Métis heritage from an early age.

At the young age of three, Gianna Vandenberghe is diving into her culture in a way that her family didn't get a chance to.

My Little Métis Box, delivered quarterly, is a way of providing children with Métis-centric, educational tools parents and children can explore and enjoy together. The My Little Métis Box encourages all to ask questions, seek answers, and foster honest conversations, all while having fun!

"I didn't know much about my roots until I got my Métis card and explored my family genealogy and land scrips," said her father, Travis.

Growing up, Travis and his wife Joelle learned about the history of the Métis through engaging experiences. They attended celebrations such as the Festival du Voyageur and took enlightening historical tours to Riel House.

"During my school years in the (Division scolaire franco-manitobaine), we would go to Festival (du Voyageur) and learn about the culture, the food, and the dances. It's still one of my favourite winter activities as an adult," said Joelle. "I remember one year we had a field trip to take a tour at the Riel House National Historic Site to learn and explore Louis Riel's struggles."

This year, the couple was thrilled to escort their little girl, Gianna, to her very first Festival du Voyageur.

"She's currently only three, so understanding her heritage is still something she can't quite comprehend, but she absolutely loves her little Métis boxes and its contents. She also loved going to Festival this year," said Joelle.

It wasn't until Travis received his MMF Citizenship that he fully grasped the depth of his cultural identity.

"It was something I never had or knew that I was a part of growing up. So, I'm happy to get to share this culture with my daughter," said Travis.

Wanting to enrich Gianna's understanding of her culture, the family dove deeper into learning about their Red River Métis roots.

"My wife was the one to find out about it and order it. I was all for any opportunity to give my daughter the chance to learn about our roots," said Travis.

Every box has given Gianna a fun and educational chance to dive into her culture, with activities ranging from interactive tasks like cooking and baking, to educational exercises.

With the help of these boxes, the family has begun to learn Michif.

"(Michif) is a mix of different languages, which makes it that much easier to learn. But the writing of words can be difficult, which I wouldn't have guessed," Joelle said. "The cue cards and drawing activities that Gigi gets in her Little Metis Box have contributed to our learning a new language."

Joelle said Gianna loves baking recipes from the boxes. Of everything she's made so far, the bannock has been her absolute favourite.

"The boxes are already so creative, so fun, and so full of information and activities! I can't think of anything that could be added," Joelle said. "I do love the baking and cooking recipes and ideas that come in the box. They're my favourite things to do with Gigi."

There is always excitement in the Vandenberghe home when their My Little Métis Box arrives, and they can't wait to see what's to come in future boxes.

"I really enjoy what's in the box," said Travis. "It's a good variety of different activities. I wouldn't change anything."

For more information on My Little Métis Box, visit the ELCC's website at mmf.mb.ca/early-learning-child-care.



MY LITTLE MÉTIS BOX FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a My Little Métis Box?
My Little Métis Box is a subscription-style Métis cultural resource box that gets delivered to registered Métis children across the Red River Métis Homeland four times per year. Each box per round is different, but always features our Red River Métis culture in age-appropriate ways and helps families integrate our culture into their daily activities.

What is included in a My Little Métis Box?
Each box is different, but they have similar components. They'll contain literature, a cultural activity (bannock-making kit, wooden expression fishing game, puzzles, outdoor activity prompts, etc.), and an artistic component.

Who is eligible for a My Little Métis Box?
Red River Métis Citizens (with card) between the ages of 0-6 years old.

How much does a My Little Métis Box cost?
The boxes are complimentary.

Is it a recurring subscription?
We operate the program year to year depending on available funding.

How do I get a My Little Métis Box?
Email elcc@mmf.mb.ca with a guardian's full contact information (phone and email), the child(ren)'s full name and mailing address, and the child(ren)'s age.

Is my child eligible for MMF Citizenship?
Apply to the Central Registry Office for your child's Citizenship.

RED RIVER MÉTIS YOUTH PLACES AT THE NATIONAL U18 FEMALE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



Red River Métis athlete Kayla Monkman captured silver and an MVP award at Football Canada's U18 Female Championships.

Kayla Monkman recently brought home silver with Team Manitoba at Football Canada's U18 Female Championships.

The Red River Métis athlete has played football for years.

"My mom signed me up when I was eight to play football, and I just kept on playing from then on," she said.

When the Red River Métis Youth started her football career, she learned the ropes at the defensive corner and safety positions, which she's stuck to since.

Monkman currently plays for the East Side Eagles Football Club.

The Football Canada U18 Female Championship tournament was hosted in Ottawa over the summer and featured seven teams: Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Ontario (2), Manitoba, Quebec, and the National Indigenous Team.

The football player reminisced on the honour of representing her province.

"It was a great experience to play against the other provinces," Monkman said.

Team Manitoba faced Ontario Black for the gold medal game. Despite losing 8-0, the Red River Métis Youth was proud of her team.

"I was excited to win silver," she said. "I didn't really care if we lost or won because I know the defence had a good last game."

After the game, Monkman received the honour of MVP for her hard work and defensive prowess.

"I was surprised that I won MVP," said the Youth.

The Red River Métis Citizen takes pride in attending Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) events and helping where she can.

"I attend many of the MMF AGA meetings," she said. "I also work with the Green Team in the summer doing lawn maintenance for Red River Métis Elders."

Monkman is grateful to the MMF for helping her attend the tournament by sponsoring her through the Métis Employment and Training's Believe Athletic and Artistic Support Program.

The Red River Métis Youth knows playing football can be a daunting experience, but encouraged other women to consider picking up the sport.

"It's a lot of fun to play football," she said. "And it's fun talking to people."



MMF SUPPORTS RED RIVER MÉTIS YOUTH IN SPORT

- ∞ Building a new state-of-the-art sports camp to help train Red River Metis athletes.
- ∞ Believe Athletic and Artistic Support Program provides funding for Red River Métis athletes to pursue additional development opportunities.
- ∞ Donated \$50,000 to the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council for the 2023 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships and an additional \$58,925 for Red River Métis player participation support.
- ∞ Distributed \$195,000 under the Believe Program for North American Indigenous Games participants.

COMMUNITY PHOTO

On September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the MMF announced the launch of the "Every Red River Métis Child Matters" sash, unanimously approved and supported by President Chartrand and Cabinet. The sash was designed by Red River Métis Sixties Scoop Survivor, Ms. Malanie Cutler, and produced by the Kichua Indigenous Community living in Sesquié, Colombia. To learn more about the sash, please visit www.mmf.mb.ca/every-child-matters.



Le Métis' Community Photo section invites Red River Métis Citizens to send in photos to be featured in our newsletter. If you have a photo that celebrates the Red River Métis, send it to communications@mmf.mb.ca and you may see it in print!



Métis N4 Construction Inc. is a diversified Development & Project Management Corporation wholly owned and operated by the MMF Métis economic development trust.

Métis N4 is proud to lead the development of the Red River Métis National Heritage Centre which will be a significant cultural landmark at Portage and Main in Winnipeg. N4 is actively working towards completion of a 49 unit apartment building in Selkirk, MB scheduled to open in late 2024. Working with Energy and Infrastructure, Métis N4 is leading the development of the MMF Tree Nursery to produce millions of trees for reforestation and sale. We continue to establish significant contracts for construction and labour for the benefit of Métis Citizens.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
WWW.METISN4CONSTRUCTION.CA